

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting apparatus for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, comprising:

storing means for storing a plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to image forming characteristics of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, wherein an image forming characteristic of an image forming apparatus corresponds to a resolution of the image forming apparatus;

selecting means for selecting a piece of copy forgery preventing image data based on an image forming apparatus that is specified for forming the image from among the plurality of image forming apparatuses, the copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus specified for forming an image stored in the storing means; ~~image from the plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data stored in the storing means;~~ and

outputting means for outputting the piece of copy forgery preventing image data selected by the selecting means to the image forming apparatus specified for forming an image by printing, wherein:

the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern; and

the selecting means selects the piece of copy forgery preventing image data so that, when an image is formed by the specified image forming apparatus, the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) An image data outputting method for outputting copy forgery preventing image data for preventing copy-based forgery, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to image forming characteristics of a plurality of image forming apparatuses in storing means;

selecting a piece of copy forgery preventing image data based on an image forming apparatus that has been specified for forming an image from the plurality of image forming apparatuses, the copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to an image forming characteristic of the an image forming apparatus specified for forming the image, an image from a plurality of pieces of copy forgery preventing image data corresponding to image forming characteristics of a plurality of image forming apparatuses stored in storing means,

wherein the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus corresponds to a resolution of the image forming apparatus; and

outputting the selected piece of copy forgery preventing image data to the image forming apparatus specified for forming an image by printing, wherein:

the piece of copy forgery preventing image data includes at least a background portion constituted by a first pattern and a latent image portion constituted by a second pattern, and

the background portion and the latent image portion are almost equal in density.

5. - 8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The image data outputting apparatus according to claim 1, the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus further corresponds to at least one of a tone property and a number of colors of the image forming apparatus.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The image data outputting method according to claim 4, the image forming characteristic of the image forming apparatus further corresponds to at least one of a tone property and a number of colors of the image forming apparatus.

12. - 14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) The image data outputting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses corresponds to a different model.